

REMARKS

This is a simultaneous amendment for a continuation application of Ser. No. 09/890,495.

I. Reasons for the Continuation and New Claims

This continuation application has been filed to try to obtain broader patent claim coverage.

Study of the prior art references cited with the Notice of Allowance indicates that broader patent claim coverage may be possible.

These prior art references include U.S. Patent 3,335,469, which discloses a safety device for workers who work at great elevations comprising a gripping device that grips a rope when it is moved rapidly in either direction on the rope. Normally this device is not gripping and it is not necessary to release the device to operate it, in a manner like the applicants' clasps 4,6. Thus the mechanism by which this device operates is entirely different from the applicants' climbing device.

U.S. Patents 1,114,832 and 1,754,132 describe scaffold jacks or scaffold raising and lowering apparatus, which operate by similar mechanisms, which are different from the applicants' clasp mechanism with the resilient time release mechanism. Furthermore it seems that both hands are required to operate the device of 1,114,832, in contrast to applicants' invention.

New claim 16 claims a climbing device having the following features:

releasable clasps (4, 6) including a housing containing means for clamping at least one rope or rod and means for releasing said at least one weight-bearing element (1) when a clamping force of the clamping means or downward pressure on the clamping means is relieved by the climber; and

connecting means (7, 8; 17) attached to the clasps (4,6) for holding and supporting said climber so that he or she is able to apply and relieve the clamping force; and

a resilient time servo-component (9) acting in the clamping means to apply the clamping force again when a predetermined time interval starting with relief of the clamping force or downward pressure expires.

None of the prior art references cited in the Notice of Allowance disclose or suggest a resilient time servo-component that acts automatically to restore the clamping force acting in the clamping means after the start of relief of that clamping force by the climber.

Thus it seems that a claim having the claim scope of the new claim 16 above, which is substantially broader than any of the allowed claims, should be allowed over the cited art.

Furthermore the prior art references that were filed with the initial filing in the parent application apparently were not considered during examination of the claims of the parent application. These prior art references include U.S. Patents 5,131,491 A, 4,921,069 A and 5,577,576 A and DE 196 43 455 A. These prior art references were filed with the Information Disclosure Statement dated July 31, 2001 and filed with the original submission.

Consideration and acknowledgement of that all prior art references filed by applicants, to the extent that they can be understood, is respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 18 claim the embodiments of figure 1 and figures 2,3 respectively.

II. The Substitute Specification

A substitute specification has been provided to correct the formal deficiencies of the specification filed initially in the parent application.

The substituted specification is the same as the substitute specification filed during prosecution in the parent application, except that the paragraphs have been numbered for convenience during prosecution of this continuation.

Also a marked-up copy of this substitute specification has been filed along with this amendment to show that no "new matter" has been entered.

Note that the changes of the supplemental amendment of the parent application have been made in the specification to delete the features considered to be "new matter" in the parent application.

Acceptance and entry of the substitute specification, which is warranted to contain no "new matter", is respectfully requested.

III. The Abstract

The initially filed abstract has been canceled and replaced with a new abstract that is similar to the amended abstract provided in the parent application, but includes some additional changes.

IV. Drawings

The figures initially filed in the parent have been replaced by replacement figures to correct the deficiencies in the figures noted in the parent application. The same changes in the figures are made by this simultaneous amendment as in the parent application.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

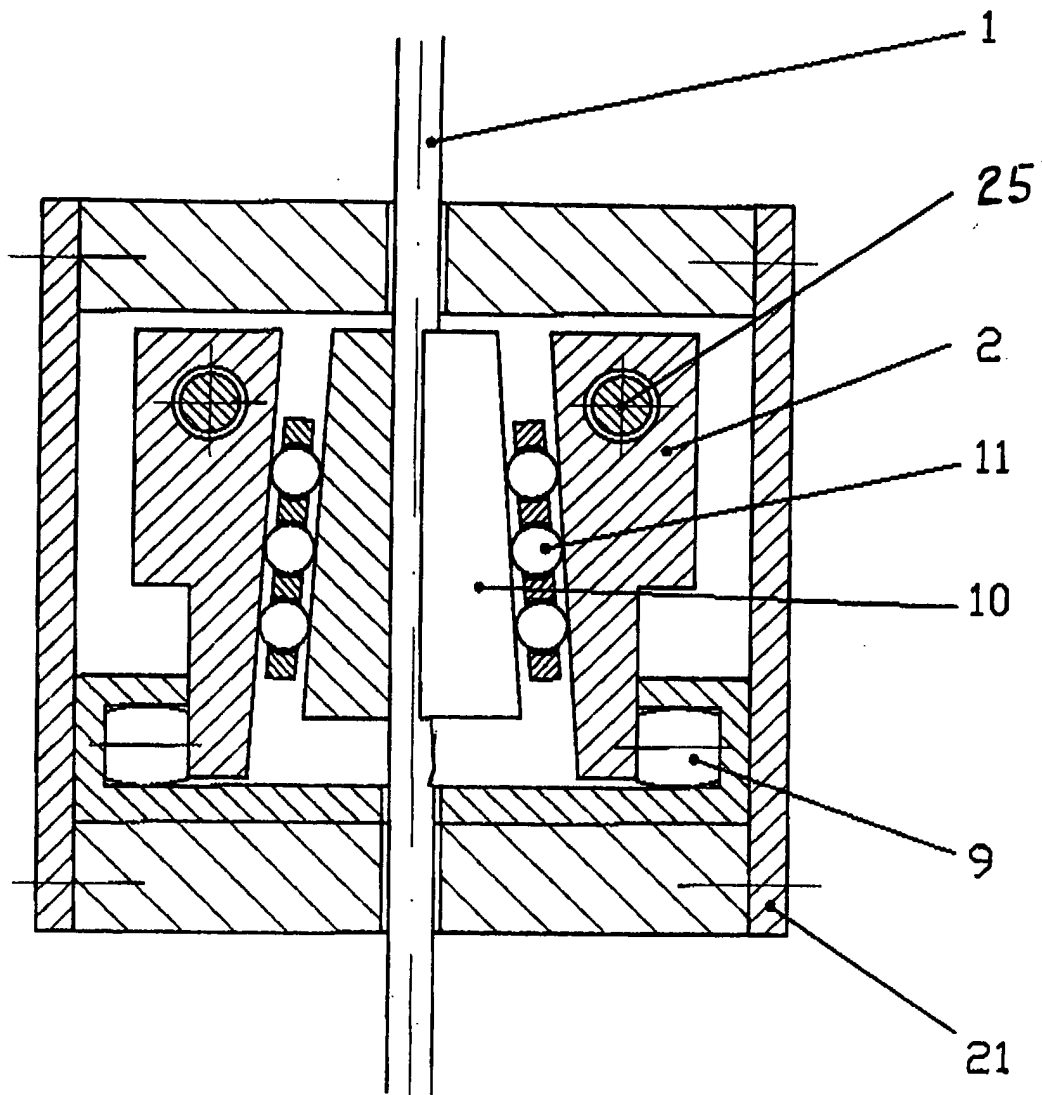
In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Striker', is written over the printed name.

Michael J. Striker,
Attorney for the Applicants
Reg. No. 27,233

Figure 1



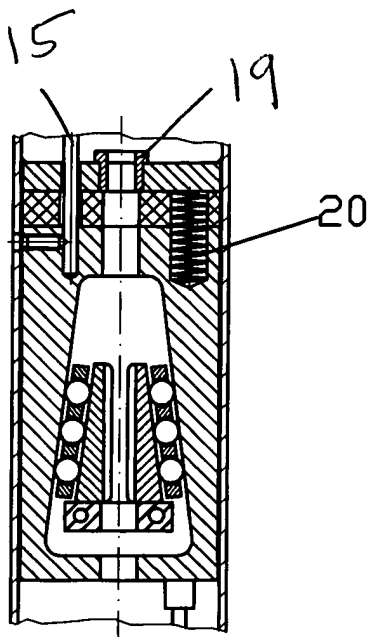


Figure 2a

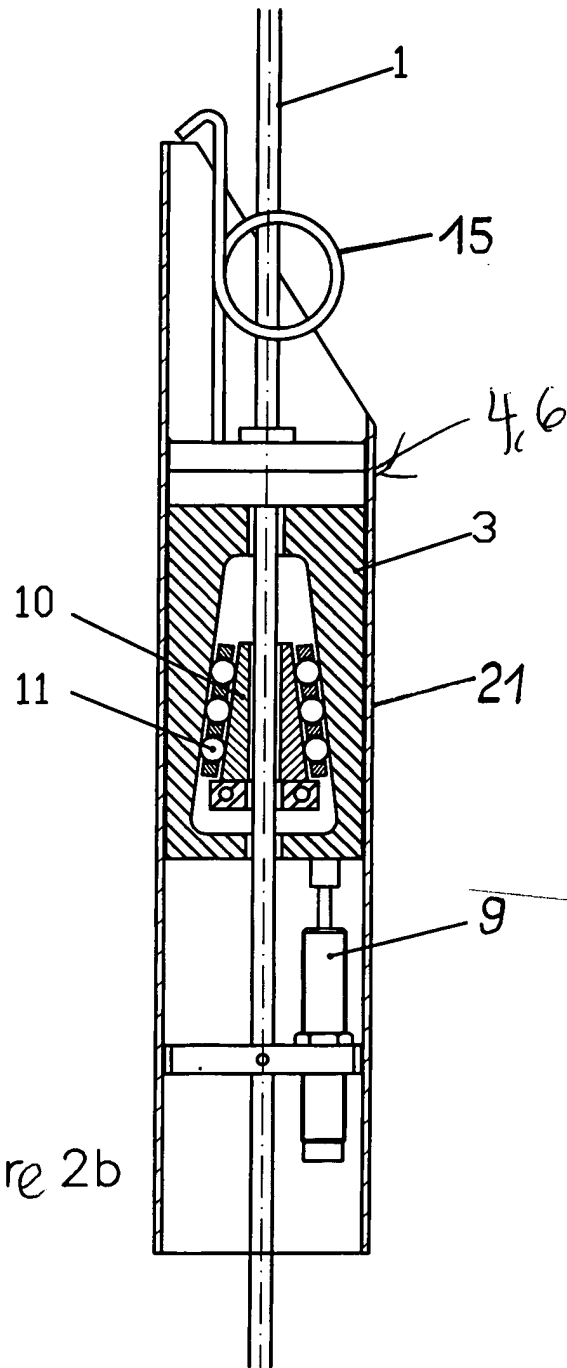


Figure 2b

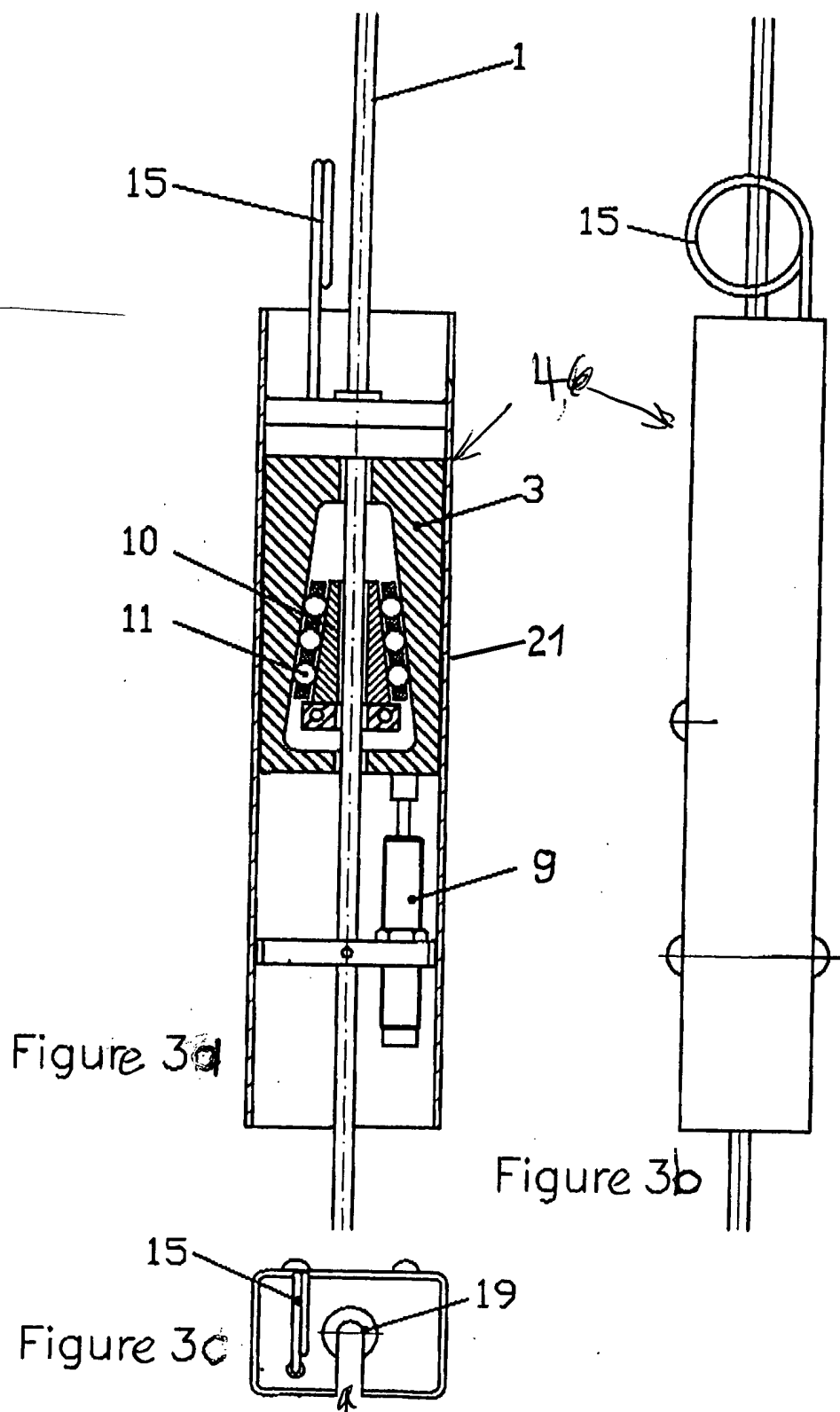
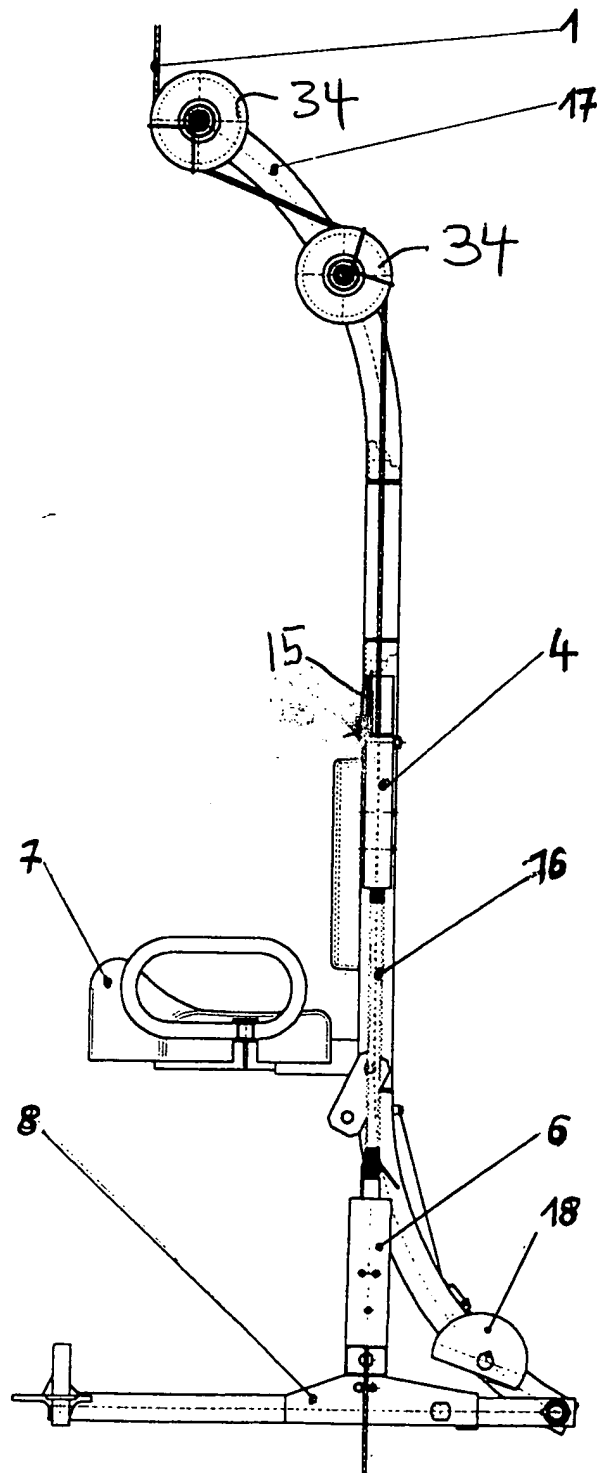


Figure 4



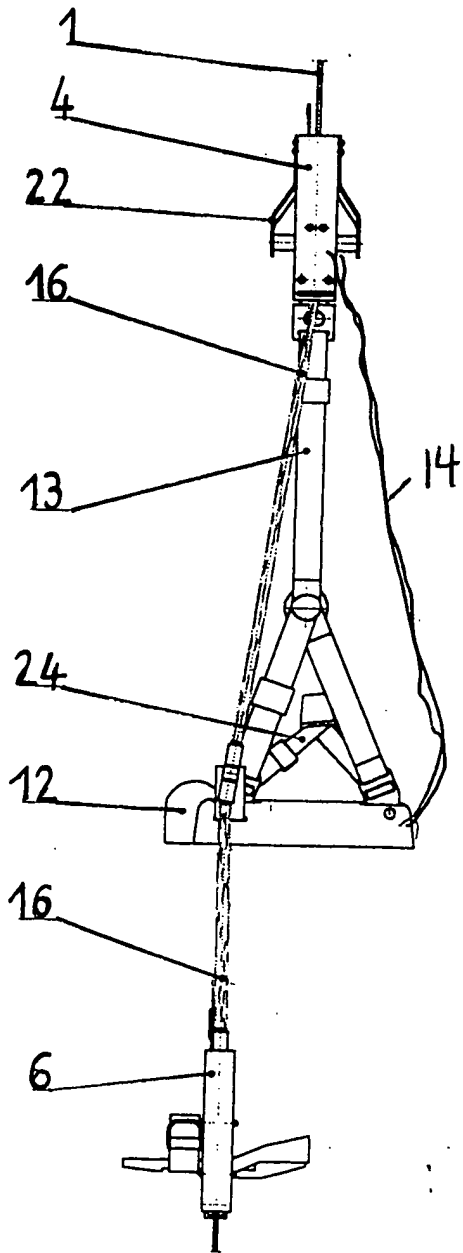


Fig. 5a

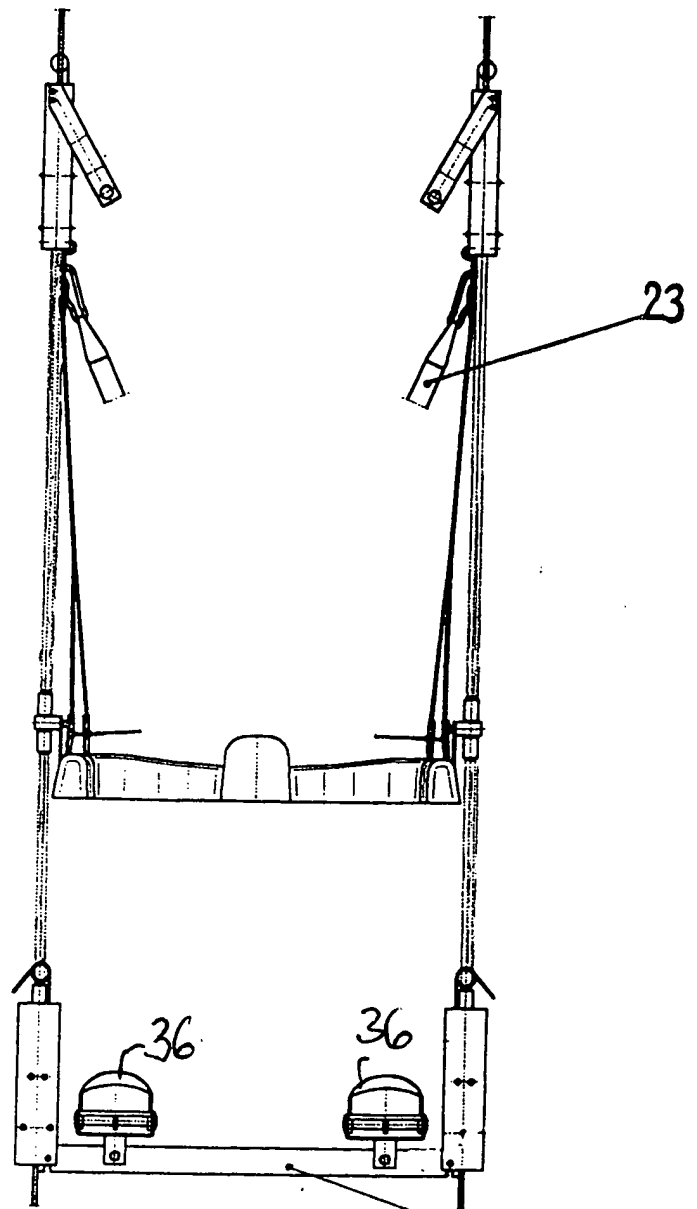


Fig. 5b

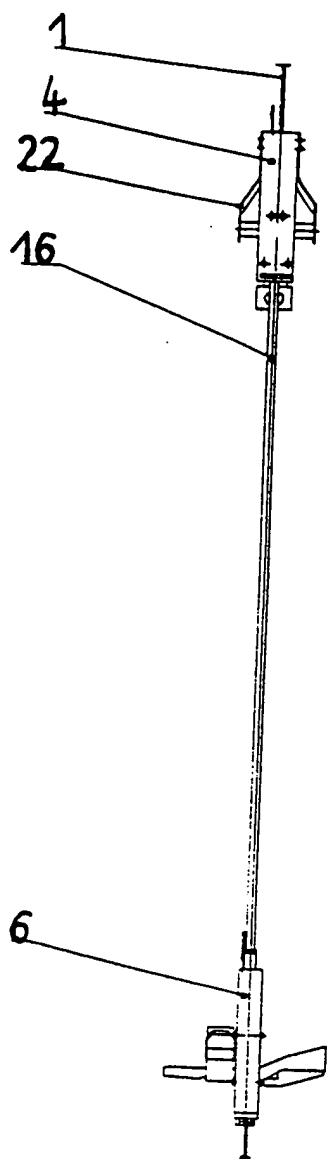


Fig. 6a

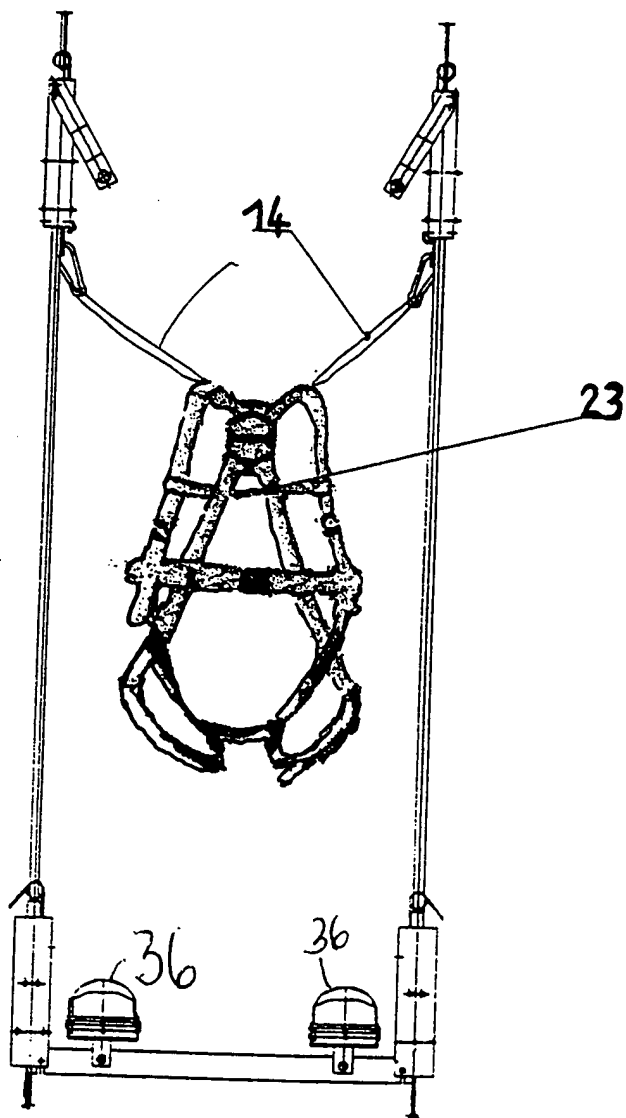


Fig. 6b

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: A. C. Chin Shue; Art Unit: 3634; Docket No.: 1728

In RE: Continuation Application of S. SCHMIDT, et al

Ser. No:

Filed: Simultaneously

MARKED-UP COPY OF ORIGINALLY FILED SPECIFICATION

FILED UNDER M.P.E.P. 608.01 (Q)

IN SUPPORT OF SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents

and Trademarks,

Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance dated November 18, 2003, please accept the following marked-up copy of the originally filed specification showing the changes made to obtain the substitute specification filed in the accompanying simultaneous amendment for the continuation of Ser.no. 09/890,495:

In the Specification:

The following is the marked-up copy of the originally filed specification showing the changes made to obtain the substitute specification, which is warranted to contain no new matter:

[Device for Climbing]

[The invention is for a device for climbing on flexible or rigid structures.]

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to equipment for climbing a flexible or rigid weight-bearing element, such as rope.

2. Description of the Related Art

[Equipment] Devices for climbing on ropes with grips [for ropes] are known from DE 19726035 A1 and DE 19643455. [A disadvantage] The disadvantages of the technical solutions provided in these patent applications is that the [demand] requirements for greater functional safety and [the possibility of] easy ascent and descent for the climbing person can only be attained with great technical effort.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The task of the present invention is therefore to [allow for a] provide complete functional security and energy-saving climbing, especially for persons on the ropes or rigid structures.

[This task is solved with a device with the characteristics of the claims 1 to 15.]

According to one aspect of the present invention the device for climbing at least one flexible or rigid weight-bearing element, such as a rope, comprises

releasable clasps each including means for clamping the at least one weight-bearing element in response to a downward force acting thereon and means for releasing the at least one weight-bearing element when the downward force is relieved; and

connecting means attached to the clasps for holding the climber so that he or she is able to apply and relieve the downward force by shifting his or her weight;

wherein each clasp includes a time servo-component acting on the means for clamping the at least one weight-bearing element to again clamp the at least one weight-bearing element when a predetermined time interval starting from relief of the downward pressure expires.

In various embodiments of the invention the time servo-component is an elastic rubber member, a hydraulic spring or a pneumatic spring and the means for clamping the at least one weight-bearing element comprises inclined bevels or a yoke that responds to the time servo-component so that the clasp associated with the time servo-component releases.

In preferred embodiments of the invention the clasps include at least one upper clasp and at least one lower clasp. The lower clasp or clasps are arranged below the upper clasp or clasps on the at least one weight-bearing element.

In some embodiments the connecting means includes a solid seat and the at least one upper clasp is located at the solid seat. Preferably the at least one weight-bearing element consists of two ropes. Frame handles associated with each rope are attached to opposite sides of the solid seat. Guide wheels are provided at upper ends of the frame handles over which the ropes are guided. A tension spring is arranged between the respective lower and upper clasp for each rope through which it passes to the feet of the climber. Pedal levers are pivotally attached to the bottom ends of the frame handles and connected with the upper clasps so as to be able to release them.

In other embodiments of the device the connecting means for holding the climber includes at least one system belt and a movable seat, which is attached to the at least one upper clasp by the at least one system belt, so that a connection between the movable seat and the at least one upper clasp is pressure-stable in a longitudinal direction of the at least one system belt. The at least one system belt is preferably form-locked in the at least one upper clasp so that the at least one system belt cannot slip out of the at least one upper clasp. The at least one lower clasp preferably includes the yoke and a pulling element attached to it, which comprises manual means for releasing the downward pressure. In these

preferred embodiments tension springs are arranged between the movable seat and the at least one lower clasp and additional tension springs are arranged between the movable seat and the at least one upper clasp, the at least one weight-bearing element passing through the tension springs.

In its preferred form each clasp includes a housing; the yoke mounted in the housing and provided with an interior space having inner contours with beveled inclines widening downward in the inner space; cotters positioned on opposite sides of the at least one weight-bearing element in the inner space; rollers arranged movably, but securably, between cotters and inner contours of the yoke; a compression spring bearing on an upper end of the yoke; and the time servo-component arranged at a lower end of the yoke.

When the clasp has this preferred form, the connection means can comprise a movable seat, at least one system belt attaching the movable seat to the housing of the at least one upper clasp, at least one safety line attached to the housing of the at least one upper clasp and tension springs connected between the seat and the at least one lower clasp, at least one handle grip attached to the at least one upper clasp and a rod on which foot holders are mounted attached to the at least one lower clasp, the rod being attached to the at least one lower clasp in a swiveling and form-locking manner.

In a special embodiment according to the invention the device for climbing at least one flexible or rigid weight-bearing element includes releasable clasps each comprising means for clamping the at least one weight-bearing element in response to a downward force acting thereon and means for releasing the at least one weight-bearing element when the downward force is relieved; and connecting means associated with each clasp for holding the climber so that the climber is able to apply and relieve the downward force. Each clasp comprises a time servo-component acting on the means for clamping the at least one weight-bearing element to again clamp the at least one weight-bearing element when a predetermined time interval starting from relief of the downward pressure expires. The clasps each comprise cotters arranged in an interior space provided in the yoke on opposite sides of the at least one weight-bearing element. Each clasp is provided with a draw element connected with the yoke for manually lifting the yoke to release the cotters so that the cotters do not bear on the at least one weight-bearing element.

The [invented] device for climbing according to the invention has the special advantage that it meets the ergonomic requirements and with their aid it is possible to use the power of the entire body to climb. It is even suitable for inexperienced climbers and it is easy to learn to handle. It is useful for leisure-time activity and sports as well as for rescue and salvage operation and for repair work, cleaning and other work on facades and buildings. The climbing device

according to the invention guarantees a high degree of working safety, which is even provided with some improper use.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

The objects, features and advantages of the invention will now be illustrated in more detail with the aid of the following description of the preferred embodiments, with reference to the accompanying figures in which:

Figure 1 is a detailed vertical cutaway cross-sectional view through a clasp for a device for climbing according to a first embodiment of the invention, showing only the principal parts of the clasp;

Figure 2a is detailed cutaway cross-sectional view through a preferred form for a clasp from a second embodiment of a device for climbing according to the invention, which has a different structure from the clasp shown in figure 1;

Figure 2b is a detailed cross-sectional view through the entire clasp shown in Fig. 2a;

Figure 3a is detailed cross-sectional view through another preferred form for a clasp from a third embodiment of a device for climbing according to the invention;

Figure 3b is a side view of the entire clasp shown in Fig. 3a;

Figure 3c is a top plan view of the clasp shown in Figs. 3a and 3b;

Figure 4 is a side view of the entire device for climbing according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

Figures 5a and 5b are, respectively, a side view and a front view of another embodiment of the entire device for climbing according to the invention; and

Figures 6a and 6b are, respectively, a side view and a front view of an additional embodiment of the entire device for climbing according to the invention, which has a harness for holding the user instead of a seat.

[The invention will be explained in detail on the basis of figures 1 to 6 using three implementation examples:

Fig. 1 an invented clasp as principle view;

Fig. 2 Illustration of the cross-section of the invented clasp

Fig. 3 Another form of the invented clasp - cross section

Fig. 4 Side view of a climbing device according to the invention

Fig. 5 Another form of the climbing device according to the invention with seat

Fig. 6 Another form of the climbing device according to the invention with harness]

[Implementation Example 1]

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[This should serve to explain the function of the invented climbing device on the basis of fig. 4.]

One form of a clasp for the climbing device, shown in Fig. 1, comprises a housing 21 with pivotable inclined bevels 2 mounted in it together with movable cotters 10 and rollers 11. In the housing 21 of fig. 1 the inclined bevels 2 are arranged so that they can pivot on pivots 25 located in a top portion of the bevels. Elastomeric servo-components 9 press against the bottoms of the inclined bevels 2. Between the inclined bevels 2 and the cotter 10 there are rollers 11. At a prescribed height the rollers 11 press the cotters 10 against the rope 1 as a result of the geometric shape of the inclined bevels 2, whereby the time servo-component 9 is compressed. In this configuration the cotters 10 clamp onto the rope. The moving of the clasp is made possible by lifting the clasp by its housing 21 thereby releasing the rollers 11 and thus the cotters 10, which move back and disengage from the rope 1. The free movement of the device along the rope 1 is then possible until the time servo-components 9 have assumed their original form and again act to press the cotters 10 against the rope via the incline bevels 2 and rollers 11. Then the climbing process can start again.

Another form of the clasp 4,6 is shown in Figs. 2a and 2b. Parts that perform similar functions as in the embodiment of Fig. 1 are given the same reference numbers. The clasp 4,6 has housing 21. Instead of inclined bevels 2 it has a yoke 3 that is slidable in the housing 21. As in the embodiment of Fig. 1, cotters 10 engage and disengage from the rope 1. Rollers 11 are arranged between the cotters 10 and the yoke 3. The yoke 3 has an interior cavity that widens downward that has inner contours with beveled inclines. When the clasp clamps

on the rope, the rollers 11 bear on the outer surfaces of the cotters 10 and the inner contours of the yoke 3 forcing the cotters 10 against the rope 1.

A pulling element 15 is connected to the top of the yoke 3. A hydraulic or pneumatic cylinder bears on the bottom of the yoke 3 and acts as the time servo-component 9. A compressed spring 20 urges the yoke 3 downward into a clamping configuration.

The embodiments of the clasp 4,6 shown in Figures 3a, 3b, and 3c is the same as the embodiment of figs. 2a and 2b, except that the pulling element 15 is formed slightly differently. A sleeve 19 is provided on the clasp, as shown in Figs. 3a and 3c.

The structure and operation of various embodiments of the entire climbing device according to the invention are now explained.

The embodiment of the device for climbing in figure 4 comprises a solid seat 7, frame handles 17 attached to opposite sides of the solid seat 7, respective upper clasps 4 (embodiment of Fig. 2b) attached to corresponding frame handles 17 near or at the solid seat 7, guide wheels 34 attached to upper parts of the frame handles 17, respective ropes 1 passing over the guide wheels and through the upper clasps 4, respective pedal levers 8, respective lower clasps 6 attached to the pedal levers 8 and through which the rope 1 also passes and compression springs 16 connecting the upper and lower clasps with each other. The frame handles 17 also have joints in the vicinity of the solid seat 7 and rotatable cams

18 are connected to the frame handles 17 between the pivots and the joints. The pedal levers 8 are connected to the pulling elements 15 for the upper clasps, whereby the upper clasps are operable by the pedal levers.

Fig. 4 shows a climbing device, which [as it] could be used to rescue persons.

The basis [of] for the climbing motion is the moving characteristic of clasps 4 and

6. If [an attacking] a force [is directed] acts downwards on clasps 4 and 6 (the clasp is burdened with the weight of the climbing person, for instance), the [

Rope] ropes 1, here the weight-bearing element, is then clamped in clasps 4 and/or 6. If one of the clasps, either 4 or 6, is relieved of the downward acting force, it can be moved along its rope 1.

The upward climb is therefore [realized] performed as follows.

The two lower clasps 6 are first clamped in the two ropes 1 by the downward weight of the climbing device and the person. By pressing the two pedal levers 8 downward the two upper clasps 4 are released, [activated by means of] their time servo [component] components 9 are activated, and they are moved upward together with the climbing device along rope 1. If then the pedal levers 8 are released and the weight is put on the solid seat 7, the upper clasps 4 clamp down on the rope as a result of the downward force.

If the pedal [lever is] levers 8 are released, the recuperating spring [5] 16 pulls the [pedals] pedal levers 8 upward. This then releases the two lower clasps 6 and the [recuperating spring 5] restoring springs 16 move upward on ropes 1 [moves upward on rope 1]. The time servo-components 9 in the lower clasps 6 are activated with each release.

If the pedal levers 8 have returned to their initial [top] position, the lower clasps 6 again clamp on the ropes 1 after the delay for reaction of the time servo-component 9 is concluded. The entire cycle [commences] can commence once again.

Descent is [accomplished] performed as follows.

The time servo-component 9 of the invention is also decisive for descent. In this example [is used as] they function as shock absorbers in clasps 4 and 6. If the weight is released from clasps 4 and 6, they only re-clamp on [rope] ropes 1 after a short delay. [This] During this short delay [is used for descent] the climbing device and the user descend. The pedal [lever 8 is] levers 8 are briefly released and then pressed downward. Within the above-mentioned short delay the lower clasps 6 move downward with the pedal levers 8 along [rope] ropes 1 and then clamp down on [rope] ropes 1. Thereafter the upper [clasp 4 is] clasps 4 are briefly released. Within the short period of time caused by the delay from the time servo-component the upper [clasp] clasps 4 and therefore the seat 7 as well can move downward.

The clamping [group] grip on the rope can be released by the upward movement of the clasp, which relieves downward force on the clasp. As [can be seen] in the embodiments shown in figs. [2] 2a and 2b and [3] 3a and 3b, a short lifting of the yoke 3, e.g. by pulling element 15, is sufficient to release the pressure between the parts of the clasp. Needle cages for the rollers 11 and cotters 10 fall downward through their own weight in the component and the clasp is open.

[Implementation Example 2

In the housing 21 of fig. 1 the incline bevels 2 are situated on the top so they can rotate and on the bottom butted up against the time servo-component. Between the incline bevels 2 and the cotter 10 there are rollers 11. At a prescribed height the rollers 11 press the cotters 10 against the tope 1 as a result of the geometric shape of the incline bevels, whereby the time servo-components are compressed. The shifting of the device is made possible by releasing the same, whereby the rollers move back. The free movement of the device along the rope 1 is possible until the time servo-components 9 have assumed their original form until they are pressed by the rollers 11 and the cotters 10 against the rope by the incline bevels 2 and the climbing process can start again.

Implementation Example 3]

The embodiments of Figure 5 and 6 have a movable seat 12 or merely a harness 23 and are designed for fast climbing.

In the embodiment of Figure 5a and 5b connecting means for holding the climber includes system belts 13 and a movable seat 12, which is attached to the two upper clasps 4 engaged on two ropes 1 by the system belts 13, so that a connection between the movable seat and the upper clasps is pressure-stable in a longitudinal direction of the system belts 13. The system belts are preferably form-locked in the upper clasps so that the system belts cannot slip out of the upper clasps. In these preferred embodiments tension springs 16 are arranged between the movable seat 12 and the lower clasps and additional tension springs 16 are arranged between the movable seat 12 and the upper clasps. The ropes 1 pass through the tension springs 16. There are no supporting handle frames as in the previous embodiment of fig. 4.

Safety ropes 14 can connect the upper clasps 4 and the seat 12. Handle grips 22 can be provided on the upper clasps 4. The lower clasps 6 are mounted on opposite ends of swiveling rod 5 and foot holders 36 are mounted on the swiveling rod.

[Figs. 5 and 6 show the invention for climbing for especially fast surmounting of heights.]

[The rope 1 runs through the clasps 4 and 6. Grips 22, and in their sleeves a stay bar, are attached to the upper claps.] Slits have been made in the housings of the upper clasps 4 in which form-locking connecting elements are hooked to which the system [belt] belts 13 [is] are attached. The safety [rope 14 is] ropes 14 are hooked in the above-mentioned connecting elements, whereby an unintentional release of the above-mentioned connecting elements from the clasps 4 can be hindered.

The seat 12 is provided with [the] seatbelt 24, which is attached to the lower ends of the system [belt] belts 13. The tension springs 16 are attached with their outer ends to the clasps 4 and 6 and with the inside ends to the seat 12. The rod 5 with the foot [plate] holders 36 is hung, form-locked, in the lower clasps 6.

A stay-bar, which is not shown, assures the required distance for climbing, for instance to the building.

Description of the [actions of the climber.] Operation of this Embodiment

The climbing person straps on the harness 23 and hooks the safety [rope] ropes 14 in the above-mentioned connecting elements. In this way the person is protected from a fall. The seatbelt 24 is then closed and the feet inserted in the [foot-holds] foot holders 36 of the rod 5.

The force goes from the seat 12 through the system [belt] belts 13 and the closed upper clasps 4 to the [rope] ropes 1.

When climbing the lower clasps 6 are moved upwards by means of the rod 5 with the aid of the [low] lower tension springs 16 after briefly weighting them. In this position the time [servo-component] servo-components 9 gives the impulse to close the lower clasps 6.

The climber can then shift their weight to the rod 5, stand up and push the upper clasps 4 upwards against the pull [draw] of the upper tension springs 16. Then the climber can sit down again and repeat the procedure again.

When descending the lower clasps 6 are pushed downwards until the legs are almost completely extended, as described above, after a short weighting and unweighting.

After clamping the lower clasps 6, the climber stands up and unweights the upper clasps 4 with their hands - thus releasing them - and then moves the clasps to shoulder height. After automatically clamping of the upper clasps 4 by means of the time servo-components 9, the climber sits and the procedure can be repeated again.

If the connection between the seat 12 and upper clasps 4 in the system [belt] belts is pressure-stable, the clasps 4 will, as described above, be pushed upwards without the use of the hands when the climber stands up.

Instead of the rod 5 it is possible to attach the clasps 6 directly to the shoes of the climber in a suitable manner, thus allowing an alternative climbing.

[In fig. 6 the climbing device is shown without the seat.] The embodiment shown in Figs. 6a and 6b is similar to the embodiment shown in Figs. 5a and 5b. Instead of the movable seat 12, only a harness 23 is provided, which is connected with the upper clasps 4 by means of safety lines 14. Also only a single spring 16 connects the upper clasp 4 on one rope to its associated lower clasp 6 and the rope runs through it. This embodiment also has two ropes.

The lower clasps are connected with each other with swiveling rod 5 that accommodates the foot holders 36, as in the previous embodiment.

In this variation a harness is to be selected that has shoulder rings and allows sitting. To stabilize the climber the safety rope 14 is attached to the back ring of the harness 23 and led through the shoulder rings of the harness.

The climbing device has the advantage of being able to be employed in many different ways.

It is useful for leisure-time activity and sports as well as for rescue and salvage operation whether in the mountains or for the fire department.

The climbing device is particularly advantageous for repair work, cleaning and other work on facades and buildings.

[SCT 111 WO

List of parts

- 1 Rope
- 2 Inclined bevel
- 3 Yoke
- 4 Upper clasp
- 5 Rod
- 6 Lower clasp
- 7 Solid seat
- 8 Pedal lever
- 9 Time servo-component
- 10 Cotteners
- 11 Rollers
- 12 Moveable seat
- 13 System belt
- 14 Safety rope
- 15 Draw element
- 16 Tension spring

- 17 Holder
- 18 Cam
- 19 Sleeve
- 20 Pressure spring
- 21 Housing
- 22 Grip
- 23 Harness
- 24 Seatbelt]

REMARKS

This continuation application is based on Ser.No. 09/890,495, which has now been allowed.

The above marked-up copy of the originally filed specification shows the changes that were made to obtain the substitute specification filed in the accompanying amendment. This marked-up copy is filed under M.P.E.P. 608.01 (q). The substitute specification is warranted to contain no new matter.

The original specification is a translation of a foreign description. Changes have been made in the English translation to eliminate non-standard English, make the explanation of the structure and operation of the invention more understandable based on the originally filed description and drawing figures. Care has been taken not to enter "new matter", which of course is not permitted. However it should be noted that the drawing figures originally filed are a source

of disclosure for amendments to claims and specification. The figures have also been amended to provide reference numbers where necessary.

Underlining shows additions, brackets, [], show deletions.

Changes were made to add recommended section headings in accordance with U.S. Patent Practice. References to claims by number were replaced by the subject matter of the claims, as recommended by U.S. Patent Office Rules. The brief description of the drawing was put in standard form.

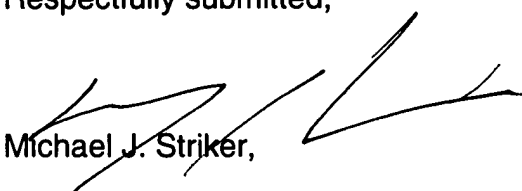
A summary of the amended claims has been added in place of the reference to claim 1. The amended claims and the summary are based on the subject matter of the original claims and no new matter has been added.

The original detailed description did not include a recitation of the structure of the various embodiments, only a recitation of the operation of the embodiments. For that reason several paragraphs were added describing the parts shown in the figures and the manner of their connection. No new matter has been added.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549-700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker,

Attorney for the Applicants

Reg. No. 27,233